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LETTER DATED 16 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that, in connection with the latest offensive by the Armenian armed forces, the press service of the President of Azerbaijan issued a statement that "in recent days the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia have considerably stepped up their offensive operations. Additional populated areas in the Agdam, Fizuli and Djebrail districts have been occupied; and there is a real danger that the district centres of Fizuli and Djebrail will be seized. In these districts, there are numerous casualties among the peaceful population, and the security of the inhabitants of the Kubatly and Zangelan districts of Azerbaijan has also come under threat".

"As developments have indicated", the statement continues, "Armenia's conduct is, to a considerable extent, explained by the inadequate response to the current situation by the authoritative countries and organizations of the international community. A formal condemnation of the Armenian side which is not reinforced by a concrete mechanism for blocking its openly aggressive policy merely creates a favourable atmosphere for the further seizure of territory and encourages the expansionist ambitions of official Erevan. As a result of this, Armenia's leaders have in fact begun to apply with regard to Azerbaijan the doctrine of 'a people without a land, and a land without a people'. Furthermore, the reluctance of individual countries to characterize Armenia's actions as aggressive and the assumption of equal responsibility on the part of the parties to the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict in practice are helping to legalize the territorial acquisitions of Armenia. Consequently, Armenia's actions are increasingly at variance with the norms of international law, eluding control by the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and becoming a threat to the security of Azerbaijan's neighbouring States, including the Northern Caucasus of Russia, Iran, Turkey and Georgia".

"In this connection", the statement underscores in conclusion, "Azerbaijan once again draws the attention of the States Members of the United Nations to the need to condemn immediately and forcefully Armenia's expansionist policy and promote the adoption of effective measures to halt the increasing aggression against the independent Azerbaijani State".

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan A. HASSANOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative